

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 02433 310332Z

ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T GENEVA 2433

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNOG, SF, FR

SUBJ: FRENCH ATTITUDES TOWARD UN ACTION ON NAMIBIA

1. RENE DE SAINT LEGIER, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AT THE QUAI D'ORSAY, TOOK OPPORTUNITY DURING GENEVA GROUP MEETING TO EXPLAIN TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE MAYNES BACKGROUND BEHIND DECISION OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER TO SEND FORMAL NOTE TO THE SECRETARY REGARDING PENDING UN ACTIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. ACCORDING LEGIER, NOTE STIMULATED BY FRENCH FEARS THAT U.S. CONSIDERING CHAPTER VII ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE OF SOUTH AFRICAN INTERNAL SITUATION. REGARDING FRANCE'S OWN ATTITUDE ON CHAPTER VII, LEGIER EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD "VERY PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS." FRANCE STRONGLY OPPOSED CHAPTER VII ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. WITH REGARD TO NAMIBIA, FRANCE WAS "NOT TO BE MILITANT" AGAINST CHAPTER VII. IT CLEARLY REPEAT CLEARLY PREFERRED TO AVOID CHAPTER VII BUT ACCORDING TO LEGIER "IF U.S. AND BRITISH EVOLVE WE WILL EVOLVE ALSO" BECAUSE FRANCE DID NOT WISH TO "STAND ALONE". LEGIER STRESSED THAT FRENCH VIEWS ON CHAPTER VII AND NAMIBIA CONCERNED ONLY AN ARMS EMBARGO AND NOT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. MAYNES EXPLAINED U.S.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 GENEVA 02433 310332Z

POSITION ON THESE ISSUES SET FORTH IN SECRETARY'S REPLY TO FRENCH NOTE.

2. LEGIER COMMENTED THAT DRAFT DECLARATIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA TO WHICH FRANCE AGREED WAS MAJOR TURN IN WEST'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA. WITHOUT CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA, CAUSE OF ACTIONS WHICH DECLARATIONS WOULD SET IN MOTION COULD ONLY RESULT IN

STEADILY ESCALATING PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA INCLUDING ACTIONS
BY UN. LEGIER SAID THAT THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD RAISE
SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES WITH THE SECRETARY IN PARIS UPON THE
LATTER'S RETURN THROUGH EUROPE FROM MOSCOW.SORENSEN

SECRET

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